

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

3- The Call to Serve

Mark 1:14-20; 2:13-17; 3:13-19

Our greater text today consists of three scenes in the ministry of Jesus. The calling of the Apostles was important events in the early apostolic age. Lets look at the call to serve.

I- Peter & Andrew

Mark 1:16 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. **17** And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. **18** And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

Notice several things here about the call. First, it was a call to a higher purpose in life. We need to see in our call that we are involved in something far more important than just the mundane or ordinary.

Notice the response of Peter and Andrew. They left their nets and followed. When we see our calling as something more than just filling a space on a list of workers, or doing it because no one else will we will respond.

II- James and John

The next set of brother are found in **Mark 1:19** And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. **20** And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

These brothers were mending their nets preparing for the next fishing outing the next night or day. They were busy people. Busy people get things done. Jesus called and they responded. A thought here that it is easier to surrender to serve when we have companions around us who are sold out and serving as well.

III- (Levi) Matthew

Mark 2:14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him. The calling of a man called Levi in here but better known as Matthew. He was a hated man because he collected taxes for the Roman government and was a traitor in the eyes of many. God does not always do things the way we would or the way we think He should.

Notice the controversy that ensued. **Mark 2:15** And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him. **16** And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?

Wow, did you notice that Jesus not only called Matthew but He went home to eat with him. This put Jesus in contact with those that the religious establishment deemed unfit to associate with. Matthew wanted them to meet Jesus as well. Jesus response was **Mark 2:17** When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Jesus did not come to call the religious people who are dead in their self-righteousness but sinners. Men like He found at Matthew's house. The men who were not whole but had character flaws.

IV- Called and Sent

The last place is **Mark 3:13-19**. Jesus is on a mountain in this scene. He has a lot of people around Him. It tells us all the names of the 12 that were the original apostles. What we need to see is that after He had called and they had responded He sent them out. **Mark 3:13-1e** And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. **14** And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, **15** And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils.

One last thing we need to see is that He did not send them without giving them the necessary power to accomplish the task.

May I state that we simply need to be willing to surrender to the call to serve? We do not have to be strong enough, smart enough, brave enough or anything you might put before enough her. We only need to be willing. As a matter of fact Paul said in context of his thorn in the flesh. **2 Corinthians 12:10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. Jesus told us He would not leave us hanging without what is needed to accomplish the task. It says in **1 Corinthians 4:1-2** HCSB **1** A person should consider us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of God's mysteries. **2** In this regard, it is expected of managers that each one be found faithful.

Have you been faithful to answer and then to serve?